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NEWS RELEASE

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Colfax and Colusa Face \$700,000 in Combined Penalties for Wastewater Violations

SACRAMENTO —The cities of Colusa and Colfax in the Central Valley each face major penalties from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for multiple violations of effluent limitations at their municipal wastewater treatment plants.

Colusa faces \$486,000 in penalties, while Colfax is facing a \$234,000 fine. In both instances the amount represents the accumulation of Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs) for violations of effluent limitations at the city's wastewater treatment plant. MMPs are set under the California Water Code.

In the case of Colusa, the penalty represents the sum of the MMPs for effluent limitation violations at its wastewater treatment plant from January 1, 2000 through January 31, 2008. The city violated the effluent limitations for aluminum, ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, chlorine residual, settleable solids, total suspended solids, total coliform organisms, and turbidity.

Colfax's penalties represent total MMPs for the period from April 1, 2003 through December 31, 2007. The city violated the effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, total coliform organisms, chlorine residual, and turbidity.

The Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued an Administrative Civil Liability Order for assessment of the MMPs for each city. The Assistant Executive Officer has proposed to settle both matters by allowing the dischargers to apply the cost of the penalty to upgrading the wastewater treatment plants, and has posted the orders for a 30-day public comment period.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency tasked with preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources. The board may consider the complaint at its regular public meeting on September 11 or 12, 2008.